

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11428 251142Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 INR-07 DEAE-00 SS-15 /032 W
-----251305Z 036931 /43

R 251107Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2545
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11428

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJ: PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE FIXED-WING ACFT TO BURMA FOR ANTI-
NARCOTICS USE

REF: RANGOON 1462

1. EMBASSY WAS PLEASED TO NOTE POSITIVE NOTE IN SUPPORT
OF THAI-BURMESE NARCOTICS COOPERATION IN REMARKS MADE BY
COL. TIN OO TO AMBASSADOR OSBORN MAY 21 (REFTEL). IN
OUR VIEW COL. TIN OO HAS CORRECTLY UNDERLINED THE FACT
THAT THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL IF EFFECTIVE
ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN TO DRIVE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
ORGANIZATIONS OUT OF BORDER AREA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. WE NOTE ALSO REFERENCE IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL TO BURMESE
REQUEST TO U.S. FOR FIXED-WING ACFT TO FERRY IN
COMBINED ARMY-POLICE UNITS TO AN OPERATIONAL AREA. WE
ASSUME THAT THIS REQUEST IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION
IN WASHINGTON AND THAT, EVEN IF APPROVED, SOME FURTHER
TIME WILL ELAPSE BEFORE ACFT CAN BE PROCURED AND
DELIVERED. MEANWHILE, WE WISH TO FLOAT AN IDEA WHICH HAS
OCCURRED TO US AND WHICH MIGHT HAVE THE COMBINED ADVANTAGE
OF HELPING THE BURMESE OUT WITH FIXED-WING LIFT FOR TROOPS
AND ALSO OF PROMOTING THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION.

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3. THAI POLICE AVIATION DIVISION HAS TWO CARIBOU ACFT
(22 PASSENGERS), THREE SKYVAN ACFT (SIMILAR TO CARIBOU
BUT WITH SPACE FOR ABOUT 20 PASSENGERS), NINE PORTER'S
(LARGE ONES, WITH SPACE FOR ABOUT 10 PASSENGERS), AND ONE
DORNIER (SPACE FOR ABOUT EIGHT PASSENGERS). THIS ADDS UP
TO ABOUT 200 PASSENGER SPACES, PROVIDED, OF COURSE, THAT ALL
ACFT ARE FLYABLE ON A GIVEN DAY.

IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE WITH THE THAI TO MOVE A
FORCE OF BURMESE FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER WITHIN BURMA,
TARGETED AGAINST A TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION OR A NARCOTICS
REFINERY, WITH THAI BPP LOCATED AGAINST THE BURMESE
FRONTIER IN A BLOCKING POSITION.

4. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED ANY ASPECT OF THIS MATTER
WITH THE THAI AND DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO DO SO UNLESS
INSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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